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Recycling Event

September 14, 2018

Outline for Remarks:

- Opening
 - Introduce yourself
 - Strong focus on Agency's core mission work
 - Providing certainty to the public
 - Risk Communication
 - Partnerships
- Regional Priorities
 - Water
 - Nutrients & Long Island Sound
 - Infrastructure Resilience
 - MS4
 - Lead Strategy
 - Geographic lead initiative- New Haven RRP
 - Emerging Contaminants
 - SF Task Force (brief mention)
 - Raymark
 - Air Quality- CT Ozone
 - EJ
 - Closing and the Rule of Law
 - Focus on Environmental Justice
 - Meaningful engagement with communities
- Closing

Water

- New England is a water region. Five of our six states have coastal shoreline and the sixth state- Vermont- has the 'sixth great lake'- Lake Champlain.
- We have quite a few issues facing our region's iconic waterways.

Nutrients & Long Island Sound:

- Most of our water systems- like Long Island Sound- are struggling with excess nutrients causing water quality challenges like algae blooms, diminished fish habitat, and/or cyanobacteria.
- Long Island Sound is a priority area for EPA.
- EPA has been working closely with the states of CT and NY; our Region 2 partners and the Long Island Sound Study on water quality in the Sound.
- Lately, we have been particularly focused on nitrogen reduction in the Sound.
- EPA is implementing a strategy to aggressively continue progress on nitrogen reductions, in parallel with the States' continued implementation of the 2000 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and achieve water quality standards throughout Long Island Sound and its embayments and near shore coastal water.
 - *The nitrogen reduction strategy complements the 2000 TMDL in important ways. Foremost, while the 2000 TMDL is premised on achieving water quality standards for DO in the open waters of LIS, the EPA strategy expands the focus to include other nutrient-related adverse impacts to water quality, such as loss of eelgrass, that affect many of LIS's embayments and near shore coastal waters.*

Infrastructure & Resilience

- New England is one of the oldest regions in the country, and in many cases our infrastructure reflects its age.
- One of our biggest infrastructure challenges is flooding from large storms – sometimes combined with storm surges at the coast.
- Over the past 50 years, we have seen a significant increase in extreme weather events, which can often overwhelm our infrastructure and flood key.
- We must understand infrastructure vulnerabilities and adapt.
- **Lead Efforts**
- It's hard to talk infrastructure without talking lead.
- In Region 1 we are working very closely with our state partners to get the lead out.
- That means we are working very closely with our state counterparts to get the lead out of water service lines.
- We are also working with communities and states on our Lead Remediation and Repair Rule efforts.
- Just to illustrate some of the great work going on:
- For the last few years EPA had been conducting geographic initiatives for the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule.

- In 2014- we were in New Haven- doing concentrated work to help get companies working with lead based paint into compliance.
- We held public education sessions;
- Sent out pre-inspection mailings to over 200 regulated entities in the area;
- We increased the number of certified firms by 44, and
- We completed 65 inspections that resulted in:
 - 6 formal enforcement actions; 37 informal actions- where we worked with companies to come into compliance and 22 no action.
- Exposure to lead paint is a big deal for children's health, and we have found these geographic initiatives to be helpful to make a difference in that community. We are in the midst of our fourth geographic initiative in the NH/ME Seacoast.
- HQ is working on an Agency **Lead Strategy**, and part of that lead strategy includes regions coming up with their own.
- We are working on our draft strategy now. It is really looking great.
- It brings together all of the work we are doing on lead into one place and helps emphasize the great progress we are making. I can't wait to share it with you

Emerging Contaminants

- Emerging Contaminants is the final water issue I'll leave you with today, because it's an issue that transcends our New England states. It's one we are very focused on right now.
- We have seen a lot of action with Perfluorinated Chemicals or (PFAS) in water.
- PFAS are used in a wide variety of industries and commercial products for their valuable properties including fire resistance, dust suppression, and oil, stain, grease and water repellence. They are used in things like firefighting foam, Teflon, polishes, waxes paints, stain repellants, cleaning products and other items.
- We have coordinated closely to support our state partners' efforts on emerging contaminants.
- Our lab has been doing a lot of analyzing for PFASs in support of our state partners' work.
- We have also pulled together a New England coordination group with representatives from each state to continue the conversation and learn from each other's experiences.
- EPA is committed to working with our state partners to address PFAS issues as they arise.
- In June we hosted the first community engagement summit on PFAS in Exeter, NH.
- The summit was a great opportunity for our community groups and citizens to share their stories and to provide input into EPA's management plan.

- EPA has finished all of the community engagement events around the country now and is focusing its attention on the management plan.
- The management plan consists of four priorities:
 - EPA will initiate steps to evaluate the need for a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFOA and PFOS. We will convene our federal partners and examine everything we know about PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.
 - EPA is beginning the necessary steps to propose designating PFOA and PFOS as “hazardous substances” through one of the available statutory mechanisms, including potentially CERCLA Section 102.
 - EPA is currently developing groundwater cleanup recommendations for PFOA and PFOS at contaminated sites and will complete this task by fall of this year.
 - EPA is taking action in close collaboration with our federal and state partners to develop toxicity values for GenX and PFBS by this summer.

Superfund Task Force & Contaminated Sites

- This brings me to one of the cornerstones of our mission to protect human health and the environment...the Superfund program.
- The Agency is focused on speeding up the cleanup of toxic Superfund sites and opening doors for redevelopment opportunities at sites- and has created a Superfund Task Force focused on these goals and helping us to prioritize next steps.

- Currently, Region 1 has about 120 sites listed on the National Priorities List and a number of acutely hazardous sites that present a more immediate hazard that EPA addresses on an as needed basis.
- The Superfund Task Force has recently come out with lists of priority superfund sites.

Redevelopment List- Raymark

- In New England we had two sites on that list: New Bedford Harbor in Massachusetts and Raymark Industries Inc. in Connecticut.
- The cleanup at Raymark is moving forward and some of the reuse opportunities include:
 - 1) incorporating a developer's plans to construct a self-storage facility (or similar) on a parcel that is intended to be capped in place, and
 - 2) future reuse of the ballfield at the conclusion of the Consolidation Remedy. Both parcels are presently municipally owned.
- EPA has and continues to work closely with the State (CT DEEP), the Town of Stratford, and residents to solicit their input on the least disruptive way to implement the Consolidation Remedy as well as to identify potential redevelopment opportunities to incorporate reuse planning into our remedies.

Air Quality

- Air pollution continues to be an issue in Connecticut. Monitored levels of ozone (smog) exceed the EPA's air quality standards throughout Connecticut.
- Ozone air pollution can be a significant public health issue for people who suffer from respiratory problems. Exposure to elevated ozone levels can

cause breathing problems, aggravate asthma and other pre-existing lung diseases, and make people more susceptible to respiratory infection.

- On April 30, 2018, the EPA completed designating most of the areas in the country for the 2015 ozone standard (70 part per billion(ppb)). Two areas in Connecticut have been designated as nonattainment: (1) New York-N. New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT (New York Metro) which includes Fairfield, Middlesex, and New Haven Counties; and (2) Greater Connecticut consisting of the remainder of the state.
- The New York Metro area has been designated as a “moderate” nonattainment area, which requires the development of an attainment demonstration showing compliance with the 2015 ozone standard by 2024 (i.e., six years from the effective date of designations).
- In addition, although CT has many air pollution control regulations in place, both the New York Metro and Greater Connecticut areas have not attained the previous 2008 ozone standard of 75 ppb ozone by the Clean Air Act required attainment date of July 20, 2018. As a result, the states of CT, NJ and NY will need to submit revised plans for meeting the 2008 ozone standard. EPA Region 1 will assist the CT DEEP in the development of these plans.
- EPA is expected to issue requirements for implementing the 2015 ozone standard which will help smooth the transition for nonattainment areas between the 2008 and 2015 ozone standards.
- Overall, Connecticut’s air quality is improving. Based on the current standard of 70 ppb, in 1983 Connecticut measured nearly 120 days over the standard (nearly the entire summer). So far this year in 2018, there have only been 23 exceedance days.

- This trend is expected to continue. EPA updated the Cross State Air Pollution Rule in 2016 to further reduce ozone forming nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants in 22 states in the eastern U.S. This rule will continue to reduce air pollution that is transported across state lines which will help downwind areas, such as CT, to meet the 2008 ozone standard. Tighter tailpipe standards on automobiles and trucks will also provide significant benefits to CT's air quality in the coming years.

EJ & Community Engagement

- I'd like to emphasize the important role of communities here- improving environmental health in communities is our bread and butter- that includes environmental justice communities.
- One of the priorities I am bringing to EPA is an emphasis on reducing disproportionate impacts to environmental justice communities and overall community engagement.
- Strong community engagement work is the best way to ensure public participation and true partnership- and I intend to make sure that happens for all of the important work we do to ensure clean air, water and land.